

Ephesians 1:7 I am Redeemed and Forgiven

Have you ever had a Check bounce? Or had your debit card or credit card be rejected for insufficient funds?

A) If you have ever had that happen you know how embarrassing and frustrating it can be. { DATE

B) Often times the problem is the person has failed to keep a good record of what is in their bank account

1) The Problem is they don't know what their balance is.

C) In a similar way we as believers in JC need to know what is in our spiritual bank account.

D) Here is what you need to realize – **THERE IS MORE THAN YOU COULD EVER DREAM!**

The Book of Ephesians is about knowing what is in your Spiritual Bank account.

A) This is our 5th study in the first 3 chapters of this letter, where we have been finding out **who we are because of Jesus** —

B) who we are **IN Jesus** — who we are **WITH Jesus** — who we are **through** — who we are **BY Jesus**.

C) Seen so far that in Christ **V.1 we are Saints = Set apart**

1) Set apart TO God, Set apart FROM something – the world - **Set apart FOR ... - an eternal purpose.**

V.3 We have been Blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ – Present tense -

A) V.4 We are Chosen in Christ – chosen to be Holy and without blame before God – How He sees us

B) V. 5-6 In Christ we have been Adopted – Adoption speaks of our Status in the family of God – not how we enter

1) Adult Status – Co-heirs with Jesus – 2 Peter as His divine power has given to **us all things** that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him.

C) V.6 In Christ we have been accepted into the beloved!

1) Full access into God's presence – welcome – enjoy – walk in

D) Today V.7 In Christ – I am Redeemed!

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

In Jesus I AM REDEEMED!

A) This element of our identity is so incredibly important.

B) This word Redemption means to “to purchase and set free by paying a price.”

C) The word Redemption tells us something about our former state- **We were imprisoned!**

1) The word redemption speaks of delivering someone from a bound or imprisoned state

During N.T. times in Roman Empire there were 60 million slaves living in empire buying and selling of slaves was a common practice

A) Humans were bought and sold like pieces of furniture. Animal.

B) If a person wanted to free a loved one or friend he would have to purchase him - and grant him freedom with written certificate

1) The Certificate was proof of His Redemption – that he was Liberated

C) How does that relate to us? –

Well Mankind is in need of redemption

A) Our need of Redemption takes us back to the beginning of man! – Genesis

B) The Hebrew title for the first book of the Bible is “Beginning” —

1) from the opening words of the opening book — **In the beginning God**

Genesis doesn't begin with a thesis defending or explaining the existence and nature of God

A) it just launches with the declaration, **In the beginning God.**

B) It opens with a declaration of God's existence, and then says, **In the beginning God created.**

C)Before anything ever was — there was God. He created the material universe out of nothing

Then in V. 26 of Chapter 1 God said – let us make man in our image and our likeness.

A)Right there in that sentence – we have the answer to the question men/women have been trying to answer for ages – **Who am I? Why am I here?**

B)Genesis 1:26 tells us that man’s identity and his deepest sense of meaning – **is meant to be wrapped up in his RELATIONSHIP TO GOD!**

C)Man **was uniquely** made in the image of God – and He was made to reflect God’s image and Glory!

D)Now We don’t know how long man lived from that identity — but in Genesis 3 – it all falls apart.
1)There we are told that our first parents – Adam and Eve – REBELLED

THEY sought to establish an identity that was rooted in their independence of God

A)**AND A PURSUIT OF THEIR OWN GLORY instead of GOD’S GLORY**

B)That decision sent the human race into a major tailspin

C)And Everything that **is broken in our world** today is traced by to that **original crisis of identity!**

D)Romans... Man chose to serve the creature – Self rather than the creator -
1)Result Man became **enslaved** to his lust – his passions and pursuits – his sinful choices

E)Man became enslaved to his replacement identities – Slave to sinful desires.
1)That is why we needed Redeemed – **We were all in bondage**

Now some of you get that – You look at your life – testimony – one of Bondage.

A)Addicted – Drugs, alcohol – Sex/ that is your story.

B)But for others of you that is harder thing to grasp

1)You don’t see your life that way – especially if you were saved young like me. Don’t fully appreciate.....

C)People say – I don’t have a testimony – wish I had a testimony – **really? STD – abortion – Jail –**

Listen we all have a testimony: Some of you were saved out of the pit – muck and mire –

A)Jesus pulled you out –

B)Others were saved from the pit – Jesus got a hold of you before you ended up in the pit.

C)But even if that is your testimony – like myself – saved Young –

1)**If honest see how easy it would have been for you to end up in the pit – FRIENDS**

D)Accept for the grace of God there go I

1)Anger – welling up inside of me

Others bondage to things like Fear – Anger –

A)Bondage to appearance/ acceptance that led to – eating disorders –

B)Bondage to a being an over achiever – found our worth in the praise of others

1)Social media “how many likes” followers

C)All a part of finding our identity in something other than our relationship with God

Listen: If we are ever going to be restored to our true identity — we need to embrace the truth about us!

A)If we are going to really appreciate this truth of our redemption

B)We need to understand that It’s one thing to see that you’re broken and need help.

C)But it is a different thing altogether to know that you’re a slave;

1)**You’re in bondage and can’t buy your way out.**

From Genesis 3 to Revelation 22:1 the Bible is really clear about the condition of man.

A)He doesn’t just need a little help — **a little life-coaching.**

B)He doesn't need a little tune up – to find his best life now.

1)The Bible says that every man and woman is fallen!

C)Every man and woman is in captivity.

1)The Bible says that you and I are beyond being “helped”.

We don't need a helper- We need a redeemer!

A)That is what makes this statement in V.7 about our identity in Christ – So awesome

B)⁷In him (Jesus) we have redemption.

C)Jesus came to bring us freedom

1)**The freedom we enjoy is three fold**

#1 We are set free from the Penalty of Sin

A) The bible declared **that the wages of sin was death the soul that sinned would surely die /.**

B)Death = eternal separation from God !

C)In our prison of sin – we were waiting our death sentence – no hope of being released.

D)But in Jn. 3:17 tells us that *God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world thru Him might be saved !*

E) Jesus didn't come to condemn / to point a finger / or to judge – He came to save!

1)Make a way for man to have fellowship w/ God !

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
Matthew 20:28

A)The word **ransom** means that a tremendous price was paid!

B)Always the case – right 5 Mill in the trash can in the park – always a trash can

1)A huge price is required

C)Something of tremendous value was paid so we could be set free.

Notice the Price of our Redemption: *Thru his Blood*

1 Peter 1:18-19 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your

aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,¹⁹ but with the **precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

The blood of Jesus shed on the cross is the currency of our redemption. {Countries - currency

A)It is the only payment that covers our ransom!

B)It can't be bought with money. Jesus asked a question: ***“What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”***

C)You can't give anything materially. Gold / Silver & Diamonds :

1)There's nothing that has enough value to purchase a soul.

It took a perfect sinless sacrifice! – Sinless blood. -

A)Only the blood of Christ could buy back the souls of men,

B)and bring us back into a relationship with God!!

C)And that's what Jesus came to do primarily. He came to shed His blood so we could be redeemed!!!

D)His death purchased our freedom –

He took the punishment that we deserved - The price has been paid!!!

A)Jesus did for us what we could not do for ourselves

B)So #1 We have been set free from the PENALTY OF SIN

#2 Set free from the the presence of sin! { Forgiveness

A) In Luke 7 Jesus was at the home of **Simon the Pharisee** - sat down to eat when a woman / who was a prostitute / (sinner) came in!

B) Took an alabaster flask of fragrant oil / wash feet w/ tears / dry w/ hair - anoint feet w/ oil!

1) Now Simon was upset that Jesus allowed this woman to touch him ***“if real prophet he would know She knew she was a sinner***

C) But **Jesus did know that this woman was a sinner** / 1)But he also realized that she knew what she was that's why she was there !

2)Real Question was How did Simon Know who she was (another time)

D) But this woman knew that she was a sinner she knew **the presence of sin had permeated her life** –
1)she was rotting inside { **PLAGUED BY GUILT**

E) **Jesus looked at her declared your sins are forgiven** 1)it meant taken away removed! **Forgiven & forgotten**

Sins which were many have been forgiven

We tend to look at forgiveness as I am not going to hold that against you!

A.)Or at least I am going to try to not hold that against you!

B)When God says – I forgive you – it is means so much more – **Forgiven and forgotten.**
1)CLEAR!!!!!!!!!!!!

C)Great illustration of this in the OT - Yom Kippur - Day of Atonement –
1)Priest take 2 goats - one slain - blood shed for sins of people / The Other **goat was sent away!**

That 2nd goat called the scapegoat would be led out into the wilderness – far away

A)Several priests would leave with the goat, and at each mountain peak a priest would wait.

B)One Priest would lead the goat out in the wilderness by himself he'd **untie it, turn it loose, chase it off,**

C)Now when it went over the hill, he would turn and wave to the priest on the hill behind him. **It's gone.**

1)He would in turn, wave to the priest

Go on until word came to H.P. who standing at the door of the Tab

A)He then would go out and announce to the people, **"You're sins are gone!"**

B)They're gone! And the people naturally would rejoice.

C)"**Our sins are gone! The goat is disappeared and the sins are gone!"**

Great cause for celebration.

The two goats picture beautifully the complete work of redemption in Christ

A)**One was killed** = The work done / wages of sin is death – w/out the shedding of blood there is no remission

B)**The One led out** = Result / Sins are forgiven & forgotten

1)Is. 43:25 **I will remember your sins no more**

C)**Your sins have been sent away** - east to west- no connection point

D)Amazing to think about – Your sins many – forgiven and forgotten

1)Forgive me again – Again ????

E)God has the capacity to put out of his remembrance

HE wants to release us of our guilt!

A)You know why we feel guilty? – **We are guilty**

B)We all have regrets

1) we all know the burden of carrying the weight of the horrible things we have done or said.

C)So we go around living with broken weighed down hearts because our conscience condemns us!

D)Seen grown men who have suddenly come clean on hidden sin { **weep like Babies – sob uncontrollably** – 1)Weight of their Guilt was lifted

Good news: No matter how many, nor how deeply-seated our offenses may be, the blood cries,

"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18

A)Sins forgiven – GONE – GUILT REMOVED!

B)Set free from the Penalty of sin

1)Set free from the Presence of Sin

3 Set Free from the Power of Sin

A)Sin puts people in Bondage

B)I have been to visit people in prison & it is a sad sight - see someone behind bars in a 4x8 cell –

C)But there is a bondage that is worse than that of stone walls steal bars & iron chains /

1)that is the bondage of sin ! / Sin leads to bondage

D)“Sin is at first a transgression - but it grows to a tyrant”

I am sure that we can all relate to the words of the Apostle Paul – Romans 7

A)What I want to do – I don't do – and what I don't want to do – that is what I end up doing

B)Note me – it is the sin that is in me – It is an uncontrollable force ! - Takes over my will

C)Sin is indeed a TYRANT

Ask the drug addict in jail - that when he smoked his first joint did he ever think - become an addict

A)Ask the guys who is steeped in pornography thru the internet –

B)The first time he ever logged on to one of those sights - wouldn't be able to stop

C) Ask the woman who is an alcoholic if she ever thought her first glass of wine- would take her to that point

1)No one ever does but the truth of the matter is this that - sin leads to bondage

D)Satan's goal is to get you hooked - in chains - stuck

Ask Samson: A man blessed with great strength from God but he could not control his lust and passions.

A)He sought to find his identity in the pursuit of his passions rather than who God made him to be

B)Result he ended up – Bound with chains – Blind – eyes gouged out – grinding like a ox!

1)The laughing stock of the Philistines the enemy of Israel

C)But that is what sin does – It Binds you – Blinds you – leaves you grinding through life!

D)Sin is powerful. It is more powerful than the human will.

That is why so often when someone is able to through human will get free from an addiction to drugs or alcohol or sex

A)They end up addicted to something else – Exercise – or work or a program of some sort!

B)Paul tried to find victory in Religion – but to no avail – still struggled with that sin nature

1)Finally cried out – who can save me from this body of sin?

C)Thank God the answer is Jesus!

JESUS CAME TO SET MAN TOTALLY FREE!

➤ John 8:36 He who the son sets free is free indeed!

A)Woman caught in adultery – Neither do I condemn you – go and sin no more!

B)You don't have to live that way anymore – You can be free!

C)Same power that brought Jesus out of the grave is available to us.

D)His Spirit inside of us – Empower us!

Now some would argue – But Pastor Rob – I have been a Christian a long time and I still struggle.

A)Why is that? – You are a LOSER!

B)No – But in reality – we are all going to be struggle with our flesh – as long as we are in these bodies

1)Fight The world, our flesh, the devil –

C)But – we should be growing in consistent victory

1)Victory over one area – progresses to another area

Growing into the Head who is Christ – Ephesians 4

A)Josiah – has everything he needs to grow – he just needs to learn to appropriate it – use it

B)Walking – Talking – Joe making up lost time

C) Starting point – Realize this truth about who you are in Christ – Romans 6

**D) Paul using an analogy – Our connection to Jesus
He was crucified we were crucified with him**

⁵ For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, **{katargeo – not annihilated but rendered inactive – power gone. – coach clark** ⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

⁷ For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God **New purpose new pursuits –the goal is no longer to please self**

. ¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³ And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

New choices – new pursuits

Be who you are in Christ – instead of who you were in the flesh

- “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.” Galatians 5:1
- Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 1 Peter 2:16

You are Free!! So act like it

Your Spiritual bank account is full – live like it